

## **PC monthly report May 2023**

**Annual Parish Council meeting** – Phil Clarke was elected as Chair (the Council agreed to make the term gender neutral) & Penny Storr as Vice-Chair. A newly elected Parish Councillor, Mr. Steve Coupland, was welcomed to the role. In the new RBC East Bridgford ward, it was noted that David Simms has been elected as Borough Councillor.

**Monthly meeting** - in public comment, an officer of the tennis club attended to support its request for approval of a project to resurface the courts with an artificial turf, which was subsequently granted.

**Annual Parish Meeting & funding for local organisations** - there was a very small turnout which can be partly explained by having it on a Friday, due to availability issues with the Village Hall. However, the point was made about advertising it more widely, for example with posters, and about communication & engagement with residents in general. It was thought best to try & return to the traditional date of the third Thursday of April. It was felt that a return to offering local organisations, clubs etc to provide a report at the APM might be useful. The Clerk also has access to information about funding opportunities such as grants, and officials interested in accessing these are encouraged to get in touch with her.

**Parish magazine contribution** - the Parish Magazine is a very important source of information for residents and also for the PC to communicate with residents. The PC will continue to support it by contributing £400 towards its costs.

**Coronation weekend** - using the large flags and the crown near the Post Office to make a clear 'statement' has been warmly received, and Cllr. Thomas was thanked for coming up with the idea & arranging it. Of course, there are residents who would have wished for further celebrations, such as a community screening, but people seemed to prefer to 'do their own thing', often with neighbours. Part of that may have been down to the coronation itself going over lunchtime, and the extended holiday weekend, with street lunches on the Sunday & Monday for example. From the Council point of view, the principle remains that the PC will do its best to support the community in any endeavours which would bring benefits to it.

**Planning, incl Butt Lane South, & traffic incl Kirk Hill and Main Street** - at the time of writing, there is no indication of any appeal against the welcome Refuse Permission decision on Butt Lane South and no listed new application. Cllr Burton is liaising with VIA about the pavement flooding and likely problems on the verge with construction due at East Bridgford Hill. It may be that there will be an opportunity to re-visit this, plus speed limits along that and other roads, when the details about the junction improvement project at the Kirk Hill traffic lights are subject to further consultation. The terrible state of Main Street is such that a step-change in the ways in which the Council and its community try to influence VIA and NCC Highways to re-surface it properly is now needed. Cyclists in particular are vulnerable so organised groups will be contacted to ask them to put pressure on as well, for example. In addition, training will soon take place for the volunteers who will help with the new Community Speed Watch scheme.

**Butt Close and pavilion matters** - work has begun on the all-weather cricket wicket and bark has been added to the landing areas in the Play Area, where the implications of its annual ROSPA inspection will be explored in the coming months. The tennis club was due to

celebrate its centenary in May, and is to be heartily congratulated on its success. It has shown itself to be very proactive, not least in the way that its need to replace an old, decaying viewing lodge a few years ago resulted eventually in finding funding to extend the whole pavilion. The HS (village show) committee wish to improve the external power supply from the pavilion but unfortunately there were too many unresolved questions for the PC to give a final go-ahead in time for this year's show.

**Climate change** -the Council is engaging with a project to identify areas where more trees can be planted, which will include land owned or leased by the Council, particularly where other objectives can be met too, such as screening or noise reduction from the A46 for example.

**Conservation area consultation** – many residents will have received a letter about a review of the Conservation Area & a consultation evening on the 25<sup>th</sup> May. The PC through Cllr Maywhort has been engaging with this, which will have significance for any development, tree work etc within that area.

The next meeting will be on Monday June 12th at 7.30pm in the chapel.